

Crime Surveys User Conference 2026

Abstracts

Research paper abstracts

Hidden Victims of Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence: Examining Inequality Patterns and Victim Profiles for Victim-Survivors Based on Non-Disclosure to Specialised Services.
Hannah Manzur, City St. George's, University of London

This study examines the hidden population of victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) in England and Wales who report non-disclosure of their victimisation, particularly to specialised services. Whilst evidence-building largely relies on victim-survivors' disclosure through help-seeking pathways and interventions, the experiences and inequality patterns for victim-survivors *outside* of these pathways are significantly missing from evidence and support provision.

In particular, specialised services support some of the most marginalised and invisible victims of violence, yet barriers to disclosure and resource limitations pose significant challenges for both data collection and support access for these groups.

The nationally-representative Crime Survey for England and Wales offers a unique opportunity to analyse data on IPV victim-survivors who have *not* contacted specialised services, or disclosed to any other person or organisation.

Using pooled data (2004-2019) on past-year IPV, we compare inequality patterns (by gender, ethnicity, and migrant-status) and victim profiles (including risk-factors, victimisation characteristics, and harms) of victim-survivors based on disclosure (CSEW only, other person/organisation, or specialised services). In this way, we reveal new insights into the risk-factors, experiences, inequalities, and impacts of violence against otherwise hidden victims of violence, particularly those excluded from specialised services support.

Conflicting trends in violent crime measured by police recorded crime and the crime survey in England and Wales since 2010
Brian Francis (Emeritus Senior Professor, Lancaster University) and
Sylvia Walby (Professor of Criminology, Royal Holloway, University of London)

Police recorded violent crime (PRC) and the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) use different definitions of violence, with CSEW focusing on assaults whereas PRC uses a wider definition. Additionally, police recorded crime only includes crime not reported to the police whereas CSEW estimates includes all assaults reported to the survey. Alignment is therefore necessary before comparison of the two data sources.

Once aligned, the two series show substantially different trends in violent crime with rising trends in police data and falling trends in survey data. With the PRC only reporting crimes known to the police, it might be expected that PRC violent crime would be lower than CSEW estimates, but this is no longer true.

For assaults with injury, there is a 77% increase in PRC assaults from 2013/14 from 321,034 to 569,719 in 2022/23, with a small pandemic dip in 2020/21. In contrast, the estimated CSEW reported crime data shows a decline over the same period of 53%, from around 363,000 to 192,000 – just a third of the PRC figures. For assaults without injury, the changes are even larger. PRC more than trebles over the period, from 229,816 to 723,683. CSEW reported crime, in contrast, more than halves, from 485,865 to 216,863.

Both the PRC and CSEW have suffered periods in which the UK Statistics Authority has withdrawn their quality approval as ‘national statistics’. However, perplexingly, the ONS currently recommends the CSEW as the approved source for violent crime volume and trend assessments. Some reasons for the three-fold discrepancy in violent crime volume are discussed. We recommend that both series are published in future ONS reports.

Attitudes to Crime and Punishment in England and Wales, 1964–2023: A Reinterpretation of the 1980s and a Model of Interactions Between Concern, Punitiveness and Prioritization **Matteo Tiratelli, University College London**

This paper assembles the largest set of British survey questions about criminal justice to date (1,190 question-year pairs) and uses it to measure crime concern, punitiveness, support for the death penalty and the prioritization of crime as a social issue from the 1960s to today. Results lend some support to existing narratives of public opinion, showing that concern and prioritization grew steadily through the 1970s before declining from the mid-2000s, and that support for the death penalty has been falling since at least the 1960s. But they contradict orthodox accounts of the 1980s as a period of rising punitiveness, showing instead that support for tougher policing and sentencing was highly volatile and subject to significant demographic variation until the late 1990s.

Online and Offline Stalking Victimization in the Crime Survey for England and Wales: Its Predictors and Victim/Survivors’ Views on Criminalisation **Madeleine Janickyj, University College London**

Over the past two decades, offline stalking, a repeated pattern of behaviours which causes fear and distress, has been complemented through online and digital means. Within this study, we use nationally representative Crime Survey for England and Wales data from 2012 to 2020 to determine the prevalence of cyberstalking and ascertain how these experiences impact participants’ perceptions of the events. Our analysis, involving weighted and multinomial logistic regression, shows that while cyberstalking is not as widespread, it is increasing in prevalence faster than its offline counterpart. Despite the impact on respondents, these experiences do not shape their perception of the event in the same way—suggesting that cyberstalking is viewed as less criminal than offline stalking.
